

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 are pending. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's recommendation. Claims 4, 6, 9-18, 22-23, and 25-29 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 6-7, 12, 15-16, 18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Noakes, U.S. Patent No. 4,416,810. The Office Action states that Noakes discloses a method for encapsulation of radioactive LS waste comprising mixing with activated carbon and NaCl, which would inherently have a shape, cover at least some surface area, and block at least some alpha radiation. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claims 6-7, 12, 15-16 and 18 have been canceled rendering this portion of the rejection moot. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to overcome the cited reference as the Examiner suggested. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 6-7, 12, 15-16, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Motoki *et al.* U.S. Patent No. 4,622,176. The Office Action states that Motoki '176 discloses a method of processing liquid radioactive waste comprising mixing with activated carbon, which would inherently have a shape, cover at least some surface area, and block at least some alpha radiation. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claims 6-7, 12 15-16 and 22 have been cancelled rendering this portion of the rejection moot. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to overcome the cited reference as the Examiner suggested. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 4-18, 20-23 and 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Allen, U.S. Patent No. 5,551,976 in view of Motoki. The Office Action states that Allen discloses a method for the disposal of radioactive waste comprising: admixing a polymer with the waste material to encapsulate the waste within the polymer, wherein the polymer prevents radiation from passing through, further mixing the polymer-waste admixture with a shielding material wherein the polymer-waste mixture is incorporated within the shielding material, and forming the final mixture into solidified, round geometric shapes. Motoki discloses activated carbon. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 9-18, 20-23 and 25-29 have been cancelled rendering this portion of the rejection moot. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to overcome the cited reference as the Examiner suggested. Claims 2, 5, and 8 depend from Claim 1, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

Application No. 09/464,253
Amendment and Response to Final Office Action
Dated January 27, 2004

Applicants respectfully submit that this is a complete response to the Final Office Action dated December 1, 2003 and that Claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 are patentable. Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes there are other issues that can be resolved by telephone interview, or that there are any informalities remaining in the application which may be corrected by Examiner's Amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at (404) 815-6500 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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